(b) what is the actual value of the foodgrains allotted to these States during the last three years; and

(c) what is the criteria adopted by Government for such allotments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) According to the Ministry of Rural Development, a total quantity of 85.42 lakh MTs of foodgrains was released to the drought affected States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during 2000-01 to 2002-03. While the releases 2000-01 and 2001-02 were under the Food for Work Programme and valued at Below Poverty Line (BPL) Cost, releases during 2002-03 were under the Special Component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and valued at Economic Cost. The total value of foodgrains released to these States is approximately Rs. 7228.42 crores.

The Food for Work Programme was a demand driven scheme and subsequent instalment of foodgrains were provided to the affected States on submission of district-wise proposal after lifting 75% of the available foodgrains and utilizing 60% of the foodgrains already lifted and on the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture. Foodgrains under the Special Component of the SGRY were released for taking up relief works in the drought affected areas on the recommendations of the Task Force on Drought Management set up under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister. The Task Force had fixed monthly requirement of the drought affected States and releases were made accordingly.

Setting up of fodder banks in Tamil Nadu

2108. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 63.12 lakhs has been provided to certain States for setting up of fodder banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance has been extended or proposed to be extended for setting up of fodder banks in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 63.112 lakhs has been provided to the States of Maharashtra (Rs. 41.25 lakhs), Arunachal Pradesh (Rs. 11.362 lakhs) and Karnataka (Rs. 10.50 lakhs) during 2000-01 for setting up of fodder banks.

(c) to (e) Rs. 41.25 lakhs were released to the Government of Tamil Nadu during 1993-94 for setting up of fodder bank. The State has still an unspent amount of Rs. 11.205 lakhs out of the above amount.

Making agriculture remunerative

†2109. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture in regions like Haryana, Punjab, Western Uttar Pradesh and in almost all the areas of the country is constantly turning into non-remunerative;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any concrete steps to make agriculture remunerative in these areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities announced by the Government not only cover cost of production, but also a reasonable margin as an incentive to the farmers to invest and improve production and productivity. The Government also organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (F.C.I.), Jute Corporation of India (J.C.I.), Cotton Corporation of India (C.C.I.), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments.

In order to encourage farmers to switch over to more remunerative crops, the Government has also been announcing relatively higher

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.